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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

DATE:

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SUBJECT History of the Stalin Pupils

INFO.

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- 25X1 1. In May 1935, during a speech before graduates of Red Army academies, Stalin asked for the formation of an elite group within the army. The appellation "Stalin Pupil" was subsequently applied to military school students who achieved particularly good records. This gave them priority eligibility for two war-school examinations, one qualifying the applicant for officer rank, the other qualifying him for a career as a general staff officer.
2. In February 1937, during a meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, Zhdanov stated that, in the future, all candidates for high party posts and administrative positions would be selected from cadres to be trained by the State in ten special Stalin Schools. The boys' education was to begin at the age of twelve, would continue for eight years and would include six months of military training. Severe standards were to be set in screening prospects among the 28,000,000 State middle school students and only those of pure proletarian origin would be chosen.
3. In December 1937, in a speech before the Supreme Soviet, Zhdanov announced that three Stalin Schools, each with 2,400 students, had been opened in Leningrad, Smolensk, and Ordzhonikidze. Seven more schools were to be established in 1938, Zhdanov said, and ten more every year through 1941.
- 25X1 Comment: Actually only twelve Stalin Schools were in existence in 1941.
- 25X1 4. It soon became obvious that Stalin Pupils were being recruited, for the most part, from families with high party positions and that students' qualifications were not always questioned.

*Molotov

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5. In the spring of 1941, Stalin ordered a wholesale reorganization of the schools to insure a better educational program, but the war cancelled this move. Stalin also activated the three oldest age classes of Stalin Pupils as the Red Patriotic Corps, with a strength of 12,000 to 14,000 men. The headquarters was located at Tula.
6. Although it proved inexpedient to send the Red Patriotic Corps into battle as a unit, its regiments and brigades distinguished themselves. When the Russians took Kharkov, a motorized Stalin Pupil unit of 5,000 prevented the SS Division "Das Reich" from encircling the Soviet Army's right wing in a twenty-four hour fight which almost decimated both sides. After this encounter, Stalin Pupil units were frequently cited in war communiques. The Red Patriotic Corps name faded out until, at last, it became a Stalin Pupil replacement unit.
7. During the war, Stalin issued an order, confirmed by the Council of the People's Commissars, that in the future eighty percent of all general staff officer applicants would be selected from Stalin School graduates and only twenty percent from the ranks of qualified army officers.
8. At the end of 1946, the foreign language requirement for Stalin Pupils was changed from German to English. For their second language, a voluntary choice, a majority of the men selected Spanish.
9. Reorganization and enlargement of the Stalin School system is now planned but has not been carried through to date. The Soviet 1947 and 1948 construction programs call for the establishment of new Stalin Schools. In Tiflis, the former engineers' school is to be replaced by a new, large Stalin School.
10. At present, five or six age classes of Stalin Pupils are under arms. The strength of those in active service is not known within Soviet Army circles; estimates made by Russian officers vary from 12,000 to three times that number.
11. Stalin Pupil regiments, brigades, and divisions are organized separately from the Soviet Army. [redacted] that their main task is surveillance of the regular army wherever disloyalty or corruption is suspected.
12. Stalin Pupil units are presently stationed in Germany, Poland, Hungary, and Bulgaria. Strength in the Russian Zone of Germany amounts to three units, each of approximately regimental strength, performing border control duties in the Harz and near the U.S. and British Zone borders. All these men are said to be candidates for admission to the war academy upon completion of their service in Germany. If ordered to report to the academy, they will be commissioned.

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